

universities. The deputationists are also fully in the know of their entitlements prior to taking up their assignments.

(c) Lecturers on deputation to Sherubtse College have been allowed leave of 83 days under the Technical Cooperation Scheme of the Colombo Plan and this is duly extended to them during their period of deputation.

Offshore Development Centre at Hyderabad

1289. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether US-based Surgical Information Systems has opened its new Offshore Development Centre at Hyderabad recently;

(b) what services would be offered by this Centre;

(c) the number of Indians offered employment by this Centre; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) M/s SIS Software (India) Private Limited has been registered under the STP scheme with STPI, Hyderabad on 27.12.2000 for operating as an Offshore Development Centre at Hyderabad.

It is a fully owned subsidiary of Surgical Information Systems, Georgia, USA. The unit has commenced operations under the Scheme in March, 2001.

The services offered by the unit are in the area of software activity relating to Hospital Software Development, Complete Post-Operative Information Management Software and Solutions.

The total number of Indians employed as on date is 53 (52-Technical and 1 Non-Technical). As per the projections given in their application, the anticipated total number of employees as at the end of 3rd year (2003) is 100.

(d) The unit has made investment of Rs. 50.00 lakhs for

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procurement of equipment so far. The anticipated investment as per the projections given is Rs. 100.00 lakhs.

They have not declared any exports so far. The projected exports over the 5 years is Rs. 38.26 crores (as mentioned in their application for registration).

Alternative markets for software in South East Asia

†1290. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the on-going recession in US Infotech Industry has rendered many Indian IT professionals jobless and if so, whether the slow down is likely to persist for more time to come;

(b) if so, what steps Government are considering to absorb those IT professionals who have come back from US; and

(c) whether Indian software majors are exploring alternate markets in China, Singapore and Japan in view of the slump in the US IT market?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) There has been an on-going recession in the US Infotech industry resulting in reduction in staff which includes Indian IT professionals. National Advisory Committee on Information Technology in its meeting held on May 10, 2001, discussed the 'slowdown of US economy and its impact in India'.

(b) Several policy measures have been taken to facilitate infrastructural development and attract foreign investments in the area of Information Technology for improving the position of employment in the country. Some of them are, setting up new

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.